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PTO/SB/05 (4/98)
Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.

First Inventor or Application Identifier	HENRY TIEN LO
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Title	CARD GAME
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Express Mail Label No. EF 050243535 US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

1. ☒ * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 10]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
- Descriptive title of the Invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 2]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 1]
- a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
- i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

5. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (*Appendix*)
6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(*if applicable, all necessary*)
- a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
- b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
- c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

7. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
 8. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney
 (when there is an assignee)
 9. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
 10. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
 11. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
 12. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
 (Should be specifically itemized)
 * Small Entity
 13. ☒ Statement(s) ☐ Statement filed in prior application,
 (PTO/SB/09-12) Status still proper and desired
 14. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
 (if foreign priority is claimed)
 15. ☒ Other: **BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET**

* NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).

16. If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:
- ☒ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: 09, 315, 295

Prior application information: Examiner NOT YET AVAILABLE Group / Art Unit: 3711
For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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or ☒ Correspondence address below

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

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Name (Print/Type)	HENRY TIEN LO
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Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)

N/A

Signature

Ken

Date _____

10-12-2000

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2000		Complete if Known	
<p>Patent fees are subject to annual revision. Small Entity payments <u>must</u> be supported by a small entity statement, otherwise large entity fees must be paid. See Forms PTO/SB/09-12. See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.27 and 1.28.</p> <p>TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)</p>		Application Number	
		Filing Date	OCTOBER 12, 2000
		First Named Inventor	HENRY TIEN LO
		Examiner Name	
		Group / Art Unit	
		Attorney Docket No.	

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)	FEE CALCULATION (continued)																																																																																																																																																																																				
<p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:</p> <p>Deposit Account Number <input type="text"/></p> <p>Deposit Account Name <input type="text"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17</p> <p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>	<p>3. ADDITIONAL FEES</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Large Entity Fee Code</th><th>Small Entity Fee Code</th><th>Fee (\$)</th><th>Fee (\$)</th><th>Fee Description</th><th>Fee Paid</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>105</td><td>130</td><td>205</td><td>65</td><td>Surcharge - late filing fee or oath</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>127</td><td>50</td><td>227</td><td>25</td><td>Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>139</td><td>130</td><td>139</td><td>130</td><td>Non-English specification</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>147</td><td>2,520</td><td>147</td><td>2,520</td><td>For filing a request for reexamination</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>112</td><td>920*</td><td>112</td><td>920*</td><td>Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>113</td><td>1,840*</td><td>113</td><td>1,840*</td><td>Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>115</td><td>110</td><td>215</td><td>55</td><td>Extension for reply within first month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>116</td><td>380</td><td>216</td><td>190</td><td>Extension for reply within second month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>117</td><td>870</td><td>217</td><td>435</td><td>Extension for reply within third month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>118</td><td>1,360</td><td>218</td><td>680</td><td>Extension for reply within fourth month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>128</td><td>1,850</td><td>228</td><td>925</td><td>Extension for reply within fifth month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>119</td><td>300</td><td>219</td><td>150</td><td>Notice of Appeal</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>120</td><td>300</td><td>220</td><td>150</td><td>Filing a brief in support of an appeal</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>121</td><td>260</td><td>221</td><td>130</td><td>Request for oral hearing</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>138</td><td>1,510</td><td>138</td><td>1,510</td><td>Petition to institute a public use proceeding</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>140</td><td>110</td><td>240</td><td>55</td><td>Petition to revive - unavoidable</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>141</td><td>1,210</td><td>241</td><td>605</td><td>Petition to revive - unintentional</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>142</td><td>1,210</td><td>242</td><td>605</td><td>Utility issue fee (or reissue)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>143</td><td>430</td><td>243</td><td>215</td><td>Design issue fee</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>144</td><td>580</td><td>244</td><td>290</td><td>Plant issue fee</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>122</td><td>130</td><td>122</td><td>130</td><td>Petitions to the Commissioner</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>123</td><td>50</td><td>123</td><td>50</td><td>Petitions related to provisional applications</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>126</td><td>240</td><td>126</td><td>240</td><td>Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>581</td><td>40</td><td>581</td><td>40</td><td>Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>146</td><td>690</td><td>246</td><td>345</td><td>Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>149</td><td>690</td><td>249</td><td>345</td><td>For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))</td><td></td></tr><tr><td colspan="6">Other fee (specify) _____</td></tr><tr><td colspan="6">Other fee (specify) _____</td></tr><tr><td colspan="6">SUBTOTAL (3) (\$)</td></tr></tbody></table>	Large Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid	105	130	205	65	Surcharge - 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SUBMITTED BY		Complete (if applicable)	
Name (Print/Type)	HENRY TIEN LO	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	N/A
Signature	<i>Henry Tien Lo</i>	Telephone	(702) 432-5555
		Date	10-12-2000

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**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))--INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Docket Number (Optional)

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: HENRY TIEN LO

Application or Patent No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed or Issued: _____

Title: CARD GAME

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
☐ the application identified above.
☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ No such person, concern, or organization exists.
☐ Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

HENRY TIEN LO
NAME OF INVENTOR

Henry Tien Lo
Signature of inventor

10-12-2000
Date

/
NAME OF INVENTOR

/
Signature of inventor

/
Date

/
NAME OF INVENTOR

/
Signature of inventor

/
Date

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Citizenship::	USA

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APPLICATION INFORMATION

Title::	Card Game
Total Specification Pages::	10
Total Drawing Sheets::	2
Application Type::	Utility
Docket Number::	None
Secrecy Order in Parent Application::	None

CONTINUITY INFORMATION

This application is a ::	claim benefit of
Application::	60 / 158,756
Filing Date::	October 12, 1999

Separator Sheet



AAA

Application Text

Place Papers behind this sheet in the following order:

1. Preliminary Amendment
2. Specification (English Language Only)
3. Claims
4. Abstract

1

Express Mail No. EF 050243535 US
Date: October 12, 2000

APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT
OF

Inventor : HENRY TIEN LO

**a citizen of the United States of America
and a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada
having a postal address of
5010 Indian River Drive, #32
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103**

For

CARD GAME

**Applicant hereby claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (e) from the following
Provisional United States Application:**

Serial No. 60/158,756 filed October 12, 1999

Correspondence Address:

**Henry Tien Lo
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89103
Phone: (702) 432-5555
Fax: (702) 432-0315**

A portion of the disclosure of this patent document contains material that is subject to copyright protection. I, Henry Lo, the copyright owner, have no objection to the facsimile reproduction by anyone of the patent disclosure, as it appears in the PTO patent file or records, but otherwise reserves all copyright rights whatsoever.

5 CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of my U.S. Patent Application No. 09/315,295, filed May 20, 1999, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) from the following U.S. provisional patent applications: Serial Number 60/158,756 filed October 12, 1999, which is incorporated by reference.

10 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally relates to card games and, in particular, to card games for use in casinos and cardrooms.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention is a seven-card-stub poker game, played with at least one but preferably one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus at least one but preferably one Joker. The "Joker" may be used as an Ace or to form a Straight or Flush. Two or more players, preferably seven players, may participate in any given round of play. One of the players is the Banker whom other players play against. A Player who is not a Banker may play Poker Bet against the Banker's hand and/or Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet on the
20 contents of the Player's own hand. After at least one wager is placed, each Player and the Banker is dealt seven cards. From each Player's own seven cards, each Player selects his or her best 5-card poker hand as his or her keeper hand and discards two other cards, which are treated as two discards; i.e., from the Player's seven dealt cards KKQJ982, KKQJ9 is the Player's best 5-card poker hand and 82 are the two discards;
25 from AAKQ933, AA33K is the best 5-card poker hand and Q9 are the two discards. From the Banker's seven cards, the Banker selects the Banker's best 5-card poker hand as the Banker's keeper hand and discards two other cards.

Poker Bet allows a Player to place a wager against the Banker's hand. The object of
30 Poker Bet is to have a best 5-card poker that outranks the Banker's best 5-card poker hand. In Poker Bet, the Player's best 5-card poker hand is compared to the Banker's best 5-card poker hand according to traditional poker rankings, wherein hands are ranked in descending order as follows: 5 Aces, Royal Flush, Straight Flush, 4 of a Kind, Full House, Flush, Straight, 3 of a Kind, Two Pair, One Pair and High Card. Ace is the highest High Card, following by King, Queen, Jack, Ten, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2 (the lowest High Card).
35 Ace, 2, 3, 4, 5 is the 2nd highest Straight, behind AKQJ10 (Royal Flush).

This Poker Bet wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand outranks the Banker's best 5-card poker hand, and is paid either Even Money (1 to 1) or one half of the wager (1 to 2) if the Banker's losing best 5-card poker hand is a King-Jack-high hand or a lower hand; i.e., the best 5-card poker hand KJ986 is a King-Jack-high hand or Q9875 is a

lower hand. This wager loses if the Player's best 5-card ranks lower than the Banker's. If the Player's and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand rank the same, two hands push and this wager neither wins nor loses. This payout odds yields a house advantage of 2.17%.

- 5 **Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet** allows a Player to bet on the contents of the Player's own unseen hand. This wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is a pair of Aces or better (Two Pair, 3 of a Kind, Straight, Flush, Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, Royal Flush or 5 Aces); this wager loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is any other type of hand. This winning wager is paid Even Money (1 to 1) on a hand of Two Pair or better, and is paid one and one half of the wager (3 to 2) on a hand that has two or more Aces in either the Player's best 5-card poker hand or the Player's own seven cards. This payout odds yields a house advantage of 1.81%
- 10

- 15 It is a primary object of the invention to create, by using familiar elements of traditional poker games, a game that is simple, exciting and relaxing, and can be easily learned, played and enjoyed by everyone. It is another primary object to create Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet that resembles slot machine payoff: skill is not required for a return. It is another object to allow Players to play two even-money bets per hand, enhancing the action at the table. It is a further object to create an embodiment that can be a casino game, which is played in a friendly, social atmosphere of a casino setting. It is another
- 20 further object to create an embodiment that can be a cardroom game, which is played in a cardroom setting where players play against a Player-Banker (a non-house Banker). Another object is to provide players a speedy and more exciting way to enjoy the popular Pai Gow Poker game. An embodiment of this invention is offered under the trademark "7 Card Thrill."

25 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Fig. 1 is a preferred layout of a casino card table of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a rules card for a casino card game of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

- 30 In the preferred embodiment of the invention provides a seven-card stud poker game, played with one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus one Joker. Other embodiments include versions that would be played with at least one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus at least one Joker. Another embodiment includes a version that would be played with at least one standard deck of 52 cards with no Joker.

- 35 In the preferred embodiment, the Joker is "semi-wild" and may be used as an Ace, or to form a Straight, Flush, Straight Flush or Royal Flush. In another embodiment, the Joker is "wild" and may be used as any card; this alters the odds, payoffs and house advantages from the preferred embodiment and adds twelve (12) more ranking hands of 5 Deuces through 5 Kings to the ranking hands of the preferred embodiment.

In the preferred embodiment, two or up to seven players may participate in any given

round of play and one of them is the Banker whom other players play against. In another embodiment, two or up to the number of players that the cards are dealt into enough dealt hands of seven cards to provide a dealt hand for each Player and for the Banker, may participate in any given round of play.

- 5 A Player who is not a Banker may play Poker Bet against the Banker's hand and/or Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet on the contents of the Player's own hand. Poker Bet and Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet are two independent wagers and are settled separately, regardless of the outcome of each other. After at least one wager is placed, each Player and the Banker is dealt seven cards. Once having delivered the cards to all players, the dealer turns over the
- 10 Banker's seven cards with only the top card exposed. From each Player's own seven cards, each Player selects his or her best 5-card poker hand and discards two other cards, then each Player places his or her cards on the appropriate spaces of the table layout. The dealer then reveals the Banker's six remaining cards, selects the Banker's best 5-card poker hand, discards two other cards, settles each Player's Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet wager first, and
- 15 then settles each Player's Poker Bet wager.

POKER BET

- The object of Poker Bet is to have a best 5-card poker that outranks the Banker's best 5-card poker hand. In Poker Bet, a Player's best 5-card poker hand is compared to the Banker's best 5-card poker hand according to traditional poker rankings, which are ranked
- 20 in descending order as follows: 5 Aces, Royal Flush, Straight Flush, 4 of a Kind, Full House, Flush, Straight, 3 of a Kind, Two Pair, One Pair and High Card. Ace is the highest High Card, following by King, Queen, Jack, Ten, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2.

- In the preferred embodiment, A2345 is the second highest Straight, behind AKQJ10. In another embodiment, A2345 is the lowest Straight, behind 23456. Changing the ranking of
- 25 A2345 does not effect the odds of the related embodiments.

The Poker Bet wager may be settled with either one of the following embodiments:

- In a preferred embodiment, if the Player's hand (best 5-card poker hand) ranks lower than the Banker's hand (best 5-card poker hand), this wager loses. If the Player's and the Banker's hand rank the same, then two hands push and this wager neither wins nor loses.
- 30 If the Player's hand ranks higher than the Banker's, this wager wins and is paid either Even Money (1 to 1) or *one half of the wager (1 to 2) if the Banker's losing hand is King-Jack or lower.*

- In another embodiment, if the Player's hand ranks lower than the Banker's, this wager loses. If the Player's and the Banker's hand rank the same, two hands push and this wager neither wins nor loses. If the Player's hand ranks higher than the Banker's, this wager wins and is paid either Even Money (1 to 1) or *one half of the wager (1 to 2) if the Banker's losing hand is a predetermined ranking hand or a lower ranking hand such as the Banker's losing*
- 35 *is King-Ten or lower, King-Nine or lower, Queen-Jack or lower, Queen-Ten or lower, Jack-high or lower, etc.*

- 40 In another embodiment, *if the Banker's hand is 'not' a qualifying hand of a King-Queen-*

high hand (such as a hand of KQ987) or a better hand (such as a hand of AAJ85), this wager wins and is paid one half of the wager. If the Player's hand ranks lower than the Banker's hand and the Banker's hand is King-Queen or better, this wager loses. If the Player's and the Banker's hand rank the same and the Banker's hand is King-Queen or better, two hands push and this wager neither wins nor loses. If the Player's hand ranks higher than the Banker's and the Banker's hand is King-Queen or better, this wager wins and is paid Even Money (1 to 1).

In another embodiment, if the Banker's hand is not a qualifying hand of a predetermined ranking hand or a better ranking hand, such as a qualifying hand of King-Jack or better, King-Ten or better, King-Nine or better, Queen-Jack or better, etc., this wager wins and is paid one half of the wager (1 to 2). If the Player's hand ranks lower than the Banker's and the Banker's hand is a qualifying hand, this wager loses. If the Player's and the Banker's hand rank the same and the Banker's hand is a qualifying hand, two hands push and this wager neither wins nor loses. If the Player's hand ranks higher than the Banker's hand and the Banker's hand is a qualifying hand, this wager wins and is paid Even Money (1 to 1).

In another embodiment, if the Banker's hand is not a qualifying hand of a predetermined ranking hand or a better ranking hand such as a qualifying hand of King-Ten or better, King-Nine or better, Queen-Jack or better, Queen-Ten or better, Jack-Ten or better, etc., this wager pushes and no money is won or lost. If the Player's hand ranks lower than the Banker's and the Banker's hand is a qualifying hand, this wager loses. If the Player's and the Banker's hand rank the same and the Banker's hand is a qualifying hand, two hands push and this wager neither wins nor loses. If the Player's hand ranks higher than the Banker's hand and the Banker's hand is a qualifying hand, this wager wins and is paid Even Money (1 to 1).

In another embodiment, if the Player's hand ranks lower than the Banker's, this wager loses. If the Player's and the Banker's hand rank the same, two hands push and this wager neither wins nor loses. If the Player's hand ranks higher than the Banker's, this wager wins and is paid Even Money (1 to 1), less a certain percent commission such as a 5% commission, a 4% commission, etc.

30 PAIR OF ACES OR BETTER BET

Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet allows a Player to bet on the contents of his or her unseen hand. This wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is a pair of Aces or better (Two Pair, 3 of a Kind, Straight, Flush, Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, Royal Flush or 5 Aces); this wager loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is any other type of hand. In the preferred embodiment, Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet pays Even Money (1 to 1) on a hand of Two Pair or better, and pays 3 to 2 on a hand of two or more Aces in either the Player's best 5-card poker hand or the Player's seven cards; this payout odds yields a house advantage of 1.81%. In another embodiment, Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet pays Even Money (1 to 1) on a hand of a pair of Aces, Two Pair, 3 of a Kind, Straight or Flush, and pays 5 to 2 on a hand of Full House or better; this payout odds yields a house advantage of about 2.97%. Alternatively, other appropriate payout odds can be created by adjusting the suggested payouts of Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet.

THE DEAL

In the preferred embodiment, the invention uses a standard poker deck of 52 cards plus one Joker. In other embodiments of the invention use at least one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus at least one Joker.

5 In the preferred embodiment, the invention offers seven positions. Table size, management of Players and their bets, and speed of play are the key reasons for the choice of seven positions. Alternatively, lesser or greater than seven positions can be created in accordance with this invention if, for example, multiple decks are used.

10 In the preferred embodiment, the Banker receives his or her own seven-card dealt hand and each Player receives his or her own seven-card dealt hand, starting from the Player sitting to the immediate left of the dealer, continuing in a clockwise fashion and ending with the Dealer. Cards are preferably dealt to each Player and to the Banker one card at a time for seven times if the cards are shuffled by a dealer; the cards are preferably dealt to each Player and to the Banker in a stack of seven cards if the cards are shuffled by a shuffling
15 device. In another preferred embodiment, seven seven-card dealt hands are always dealt, regardless of the actual number of players; and some random number generation device, such as a random number generator display or a dice shaker, is used to assign the dealt hands to players to reduce the likelihood of problems in dealing. Other traditional methods used in other poker games may be used for the deal.

20 In another embodiment, each Player and the Banker may receive their own hand in either one of the following fashions:

1. they receive their own six cards and one community card;
2. they receive their own five cards and two community cards;
- 25 3. they receive their own four cards and three community cards;
4. they receive their own three cards and four community cards;
5. they receive their own two cards and five community cards;
6. they receive their own one card and six community cards; and
7. they receive no card of their own and seven community cards.

30 After at least one wager is placed, the cards are thoroughly shuffled either by a shuffling device or by a dealer, and are dealt into enough dealt hands of seven cards to provide a dealt hand for each Player and for the Banker. Once the dealer has delivered the cards to all players, the dealer turns over the Banker's seven cards face up with only the top card exposed. From each Player's own seven cards, each Player selects his or her best 5-card poker hand, discards two other cards, and places his or her cards face down on the
35 appropriate spaces of the table layout. The dealer then reveals the Banker's six remaining cards, selects the Banker's best 5-card poker hand, discards two other cards, opens the cards of the Player at the immediate right of the dealer, and settles the Player's Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet wager first, then settles the Player's Poker Bet wager. The dealer collects the losing chip(s) before paying the winning bet(s). After completing the transaction of the
40 Player at the immediate right of the dealer, the dealer moves on and completes the transaction of the next Player in the game, and so on. Upon the completion of all transactions, a new round of play will begin.

TABLES FOR USE IN PLAY

5 Play may be facilitated by using tables configured and marked as shown in Figs. 1. Fig. 1 shows a casino table playing surface of the invention. A Player may make a Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet wager in area 1 and/or a Poker Bet wager in area 2. After the Player selects his or her best 5-card poker hand from his or her own seven cards, the Player places his or her best 5-card poker hand in area 3 and two discards in area 4. Area 5 is a reminder pay table for dealers to use. And area 6 is where a dealer places the Banker's cards.

10 Fig. 2 is a copy of a rules card for a casino card game of the invention. It covers the use of a standard poker deck of 52 cards plus one Joker, the function of the Joker, one or up to six Players play against the dealer who always acts as the Banker, the game rules of Poker Bet and how a Poker Bet wager is settled, and the game rules of Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet and how a Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet wager is settled.

Alternatively, other appropriate playing surfaces may be used in connection with the card game of the invention.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of playing a card game among a plurality of Players and a Banker, each Player wagering against the Banker. The method comprising the following steps:
 - 5 (a) providing and shuffling at least one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus at least one Joker;
 - (b) each Player placing either a Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet wager or a Poker Bet wager, or both;
 - 10 (c) dealing cards into enough dealt hands of seven cards to provide a dealt hand for each Player and for the Banker;
 - (d) determining which dealt hand is assigned to each Player and which dealt hand is assigned to the Banker;
 - (e) from their own seven-card dealt hand, each Player and the Banker selecting their own best 5-card poker hand and discarding two other cards;
 - 15 (f) determining whether each Player's Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet wager wins or loses, if any;
 - (g) settling each Player's Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet wager with the Banker;
 - (h) comparing each Player's best 5-card poker hand to the Banker's according to the rankings of the Poker Bet game;
 - 20 (i) determining whether each Player's Poker Bet wager wins, loses or ties, and settling each Player's Poker Bet wager with the Banker, if any.
2. The method of playing a card game according to claim 1, wherein the card game of the invention uses one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus one Joker.
3. The method of playing a card game according to claim 1, wherein the Joker may be
25 used as an Ace or to form a Straight or Flush.
4. The method of playing a card game according to claim 1, wherein a Player's Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is a pair of Aces, Two Pair, 3 of a Kind, Straight, Flush, Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, Royal Flush or 5 Aces; this wager loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is any other type of hand.
- 30 5. The method of playing a card game according to claim 4, wherein the Player's winning Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet wager is paid Even Money (1 to 1) on a hand of Two Pair or better, and is paid one and one half of the wager (3 to 2) on a hand that has two or more Aces in either the Player's best 5-card poker hand or the Player's seven dealt cards.
- 35 6. The method of playing a card game according to claim 4, wherein the Player's winning Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet wager is paid Even Money (1 to 1) on a hand of a pair of Aces, Two Pair, 3 of a Kind, Straight or Flush, and is paid 5 to 2 on a hand of Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, Royal Flush or 5 Aces.
7. The method of playing a card game according to claim 1, wherein each Player's best
40 5-card poker hand is compared to the Banker's according to the rankings of the Poker

Bet game, which are ranked in descending order as follows: 5 Aces, Royal Flush, Straight Flush, 4 of a Kind, Full House, Flush, Straight, 3 of a Kind, Two Pair, One Pair and High Card; Ace is the highest High Card, following by King, Queen, Jack, Ten, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2; and A2345 is the 2nd highest Straight.

5 8. The method of playing a card game according to claim 7, wherein the outcome of a
Player's Poker Bet wager and the Player's Poker Bet wager settling with the Banker are
determined as follows: If the Player's best 5-card poker hand ranks lower than the
Banker's, this wager loses. If the Player's and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand rank
10 the same, two hands push and this wager neither wins nor loses. If the Player's best 5-
card poker hand ranks higher than the Banker's, this wager wins, and is paid either Even
Money (1 to 1) or *one half of the wager (1 to 2) if the Banker's losing hand is King-Jack or
lower.*

15 9. The method of playing a card game according to claim 7, wherein the outcome of a
Player's Poker Bet wager and the Player's Poker Bet wager settling with the Banker are
determined as follows: If the Player's best 5-card poker hand ranks lower than the
Banker's, this wager loses. If the Player's and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand rank
the same, two hands push and this wager neither wins nor loses. If the Player's best 5-
card poker hand ranks higher than the Banker's, this wager wins, and is paid either Even
20 Money (1 to 1) or *one half of the wager (1 to 2) if the Banker's losing hand is a
predetermined ranking hand or a lower ranking hand.*

25 10. The method of playing a card game according to claim 7, wherein the outcome of a
Player's Poker Bet wager and the Player's Poker Bet wager settling with the Banker are
determined as follows: *If the Banker's best 5-card poker hand is 'not' a qualifying hand of
King-Queen or better (a King-Queen-high hand or a better hand)), this wager wins and is
paid one half of the wager (1 to 2).* If the Player's best 5-card poker hand ranks lower than
the Banker's and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand is King-Queen or better, this wager
loses. If the Player's and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand rank the same and the
Banker's best 5-card poker hand is King-Queen or better, two hands push and this wager
neither wins or loses. If the Player's best 5-card poker hand ranks higher than the
30 Banker's and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand is King-Queen or better, this wager
wins and is paid Even Money (1 to 1).

35 11. The method of playing a card game according to claim 7, wherein the outcome of a
Player's Poker Bet wager and the Player's Poker Bet wager settling with the Banker are
determined as follows: *If the Banker's best 5-card poker hand is 'not' a qualifying hand of
a predetermined ranking hand or a better ranking hand, this wager wins and is paid one
half of the wager (1 to 2).* If the Player's best 5-card poker hand ranks lower than the
Banker's and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand is a qualifying hand, this wager loses.
If the Player's and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand rank the same and the Banker's
best 5-card poker hand is a qualifying hand, two hands push and this wager neither wins
40 nor loses. If the Player's best 5-card poker hand ranks higher than the Banker's and the
Banker's best 5-card poker hand is a qualifying hand, this wager wins and is paid Even
Money (1 to 1).

12. The method of playing a card game according to claim 7, wherein the outcome of a Player's Poker Bet wager and the Player's Poker Bet wager settling with the Banker are determined as follows: *If the Banker's best 5-card poker hand is 'not' a qualifying hand of a predetermined ranking hand or a better ranking hand, this wager pushes and no money is won or lost.* If the Player's best 5-card poker hand ranks lower than the Banker's and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand is a qualifying hand, this wager loses. If the Player's and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand rank the same and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand is a qualifying hand, two hands push and this wager neither wins nor loses. If the Player's best 5-card poker hand ranks higher than the Banker's and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand is a qualifying hand, this wager wins and is paid Even Money (1 to 1).

13. The method of playing a card game according to claim 7, wherein the outcome of a Player's Poker Bet wager and the Player's Poker Bet wager settling with the Banker are determined as follows: If the Player's best 5-card poker hand ranks lower than the Banker's, this wager loses. If the Player's and the Banker's best 5-card poker hand rank the same, two hands push and this wager neither wins nor loses. If the Player's best 5-card poker hand ranks higher than the Banker, this wager wins and is paid Even Money (1 to 1), *less a certain percent of commission.*

14. The method of playing a card game according to claim 1, wherein the Joker may be used as any card.

15. The method of playing a card game according to claim 7, wherein A2345 is the lowest Straight.

16. The method of playing a card game according to claim 1, wherein each Player and the Banker may receive their own hand in either one of the following fashions:

- (a) they receive their own seven cards and no community cards;
- (b) they receive their own six cards and one community card;
- (c) they receive their own five cards and two community cards;
- (d) they receive their own four cards and three community cards;
- (e) they receive their own three cards and four community cards;
- (f) they receive their own two cards and five community cards;
- (g) they receive their own one card and six community cards;
- (h) they receive no card their own and seven community cards.

ABSTRACT

The card game of the present invention is a seven-card stud poker game, played with at least one but preferably one standard deck of 52 cards plus at least one but preferably one Joker. Two or more players, preferably seven players, may participate in any given round of play. One of the players is the Banker whom other players play against. A Player who is not the Banker may play Poker Bet against the Banker's hand and/or Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet on the contents of the Player's own hand. After at least one wager is placed, each Player and the Banker is dealt seven cards. The Player's Poker Bet wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand (selected from the Player's own seven cards) beats the Banker's best 5-card poker. The Player's Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is a pair of Aces or a better hand. Poker Bet and Pair Of Aces Or Better Bet are two independent wagers and are settled separately.

7 CARD THRILL TABLE LAYOUT



3 ACES OR BETTER NET
 Two Aces or Better — 1 to 1
 3 or More Aces — 1 1/2 to 1
 POKER BET
 Dealer's holding "King-Jack"
 or "Queen" hand pays "half".

6

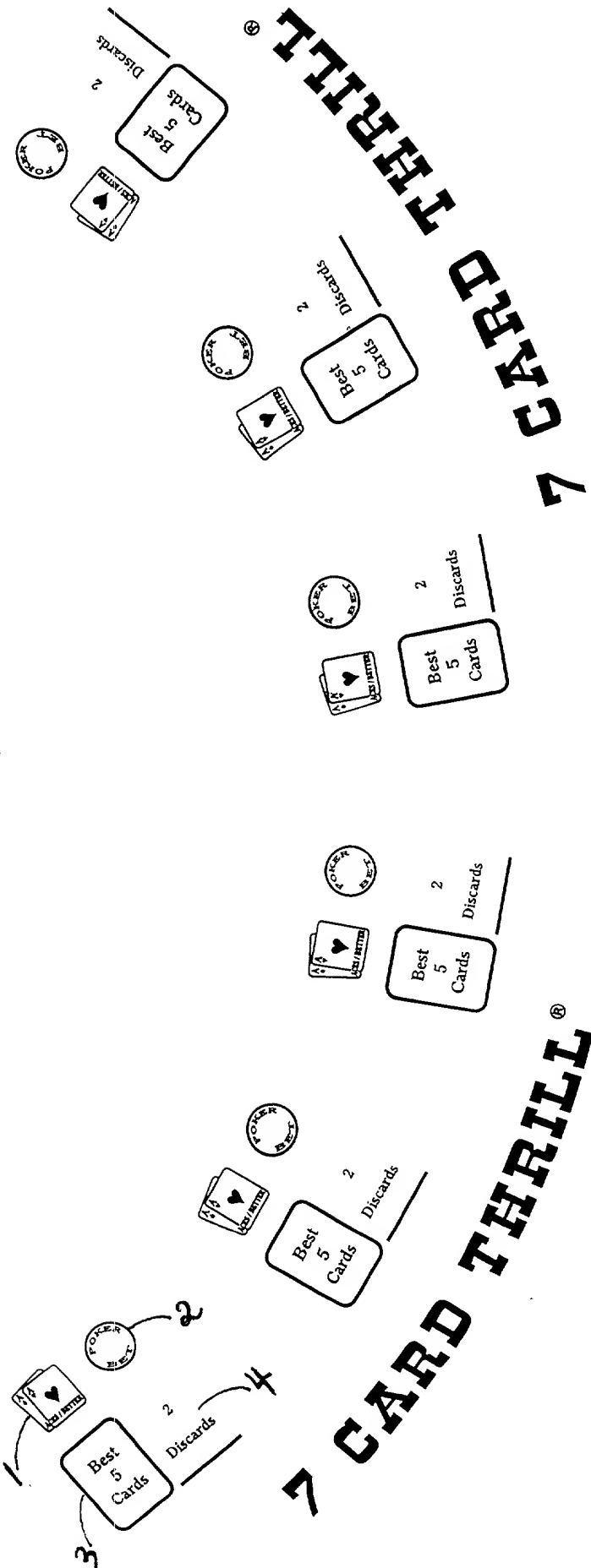


Fig. 1



2 Discards

7 CARD THRILL is a simplified version of PAI GOW POKER, played with a standard poker deck of 52 cards plus one "Joker." The *Joker* can be used as an *Ace*, or to form a *Straight* or *Flush*. After you have made either one or both of the bets: POKER BET against the Dealer's hand and PAIR OF ACES OR BETTER BET on the value of your own hand, you will be dealt 7 cards. You then

must select your best 5-card poker hand from your 7 cards; and the Dealer does the same (from the Dealer's 7 cards).



POKER BET

The object of the game is to have a better hand than the Dealer's hand. Your best 5-card poker hand is compared with the Dealer's best 5-card poker hand according to traditional poker rankings: 5 Aces, *Royal Flush*, *Straight Flush*, 4 of a Kind, *Full House*, *Flush*, *Straight*, 3 of a Kind, *Two Pair*, *One Pair* and *High Card*. In 7 CARD THRILL, A, 2, 3, 4, 5 is the second highest *Straight* and second highest *Straight Flush* when suited.

YOU WIN if your best 5-card poker hand beats the Dealer's best 5-card poker hand, and you will either be paid Even Money (1 to 1) in most cases, or be paid "half" of your wager when the Dealer's losing hand is "King-Jack" or "lower."

Same ranking hands push. If the Dealer's hand beats yours, you lose your wager.



PAIR OF ACES OR BETTER BET

YOU WIN if your best 5-card poker hand is a *pair of Aces* or *better*. If it is any other type of hand, you lose your wager.

Two Pair or Better 1 to 1
2 or More Aces 1 1/2 to 1

Note: Be sure to show the Dealer your Aces to be paid 1 1/2 of your wager before splitting or discarding them to select your best 5-card poker hand.

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Fig. 2

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

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U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)
CARD GAME	10-12-2000	NOT YET ASSIGNED

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

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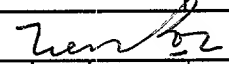
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☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

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☐ Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto